

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 138418 TOSEC 060024
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAVTE BY S/S-:OTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 138418 TOSEC 060024

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI O NLY

FOL REPEAT SEOUL 4961 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 15 JUN.

QUOTE

S E C R E T SEOUL 4961

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, KS, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: SEOUL 4212

1. ON BASIS OF INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE TO US, PRESIDENT
PARK IS STILL MOVING TOWARD RELEASE OF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS
ALONG LINES SCENARIO OUTLINED REFTL. ALL REPORTS INDICATE
THAT PARK REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH
TAKEN DURING HABIB/BROWN VISIT, AND IS EVEN MORE INCLINED
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TO MAKING HELPFUL GESTURE TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUE.

2. KCIA DIRECTOR KIM JAE-KYU CONFIRMED ABOVE CONCLUSIONS
TO ME JUNE 13. KIM, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN ON
TIMING OF PARK MOVE STATING THAT IT COULD COME EITHER
SOONER OR MAYBE LATER THAN EXPECTED. HE ADDITIONALLY SAID

THAT WHETHER ALL OR MAYBE JUST SOME OF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS MIGHT BE RELEASED INITIALLY DEPENDED UPON THEIR STATE OF SOME, HE SAID, WERE CLEARLY MORE "REPENTANT" THAN OTHERS. KIM DEFINED "REPENTANCE" IN VERY VAGUE AND AMBIGUOUS TERMS, INDICATING THAT TO SOME EXTENT IT CONSTITUTED DEGREE OF DISCOURAGEMENT WITH EXTERNAL (READ U.S.) SUPPORT TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE. HE SAID THAT WHEN DEFENDANTS RECOGNIZE THAT RELEASE DEPENDED UPON ROKG ACTIONS AND NOT EXTERNAL PRESSURES, THEN CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE WOULD BE FAVORABLE.

3. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE VARIOUS REPORTS THAT ROKG IS DISCOURAGING DISSIDENTS FROM ANTICIPATING POSITIVE RESULTS FROM EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. IN FACT, DISSIDENTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET IN RECENT WEEKS EXCEPT FOR HUNGER STRIKE MY MOON IK-HWAN0 KCIA DIRECTOR COMMENTED THAT INTERNAL SITUATION WAS VERY STABLE RECENTLY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS STILL PRUDENT TO REMAIN CAUTIOUS ON CONCESSIONS BY PARK ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PROSPECTS FOR RELEASE OF SOME OF THE MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS BY AUGUST 15 SEEM REASONABLY GOOD PROVIDING UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT UPSET SCENARIO. ACTION EARLIER IS ALSO POSSIBLE.
SNEIDER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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